

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

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TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, AR, US
SUBJ: PROPOSED DHEW/MOSW MOU FOR COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

REF: A. STATE 226646; B. BA 7712; C. BA 8121

1. SUMMARY: DR. RAUL LEON OF THE PUBLIC HELTH SECRETARIAT, MIN OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MOSW) HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH SOME COMMENTS ON DHEW DRAFT OF PROPOSED US-ARGENTINA MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES. LEON'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN IS WITH PROVIDING FOR SUITABLE MONITORING OF EXCHANGES BY GOA, THOUGH NOT TO POINT OF REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL IN ALL SUCH CASES. ACTION REQUESTS: DEPT AND DHEW REACTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOSW. END SUMMARY.

2. DURNG RECENT CALL BY ST COUNSELOR ON DR. RAUL LEON ON ANOTHER MATTER, LEON INDICATED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FORMALLY FROM FONOFF US COUNTERPROPOSAL (REF A) AND SPANISH VERSION. (HE HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD AN "INFORMAL" COPY AT LEAST IN ENGLISH). DR. LEON WISHED TO CONVEY HIS PRINCIPAL REACTIONS.

3. THE DELETION OF RHEUMATISM FROM THE LIST OF CHRONIC DISEASES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EXCHANGE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE MOSW.

4. DR. LEON MUCH PREFERS THE FORMAT OF THE AGREEMENT AS HE HAD

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DRAFTED IT TO THAT OF ARTICLES I AND II OF THE DHEW DRAFT. HE

DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE REFERENCE TO THE 1957 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS DROPPED, INASMUCH AS HE BELIEVES IT TO STILL BE IN FORCE. (COMMENT: THERE IS NO COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT IN THE BA SCIENCE OFFICE FILES. A QUICK GLANCE AT LEON'S COPY SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN AID-RELATED. H WE THINK THAT LEON COULD BE PERSUADED TO DROP THE REFERENCE IF DHEW COULD PROVIDE THEIR REASONS FOR WISHING TO DROP IT.) LEON PREFERS THE OBJECTIVES (PART II OF HIS DRAFT) WHICH HE CONSIDERS MORE SPECIFIC THAN THE GENERAL STATEMENTS MADE IN ARTICLE II OF THE DHEW DRAFT. (COMMENT: THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LEON'S DRAFT PART II NEEDS CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT, BUT OTHERWISE IT APPEARS TO THE EMBASSY THAT THIS POINT OF LEON'S IS VALID.)

5. LEON IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ARTICLE III OF THE DHEW DRAFT, WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS: (A) THE CORRECT TITLE OF HIS OFFICE IS RELACIONES SANITARIAS INTERNACIONALES (INTERNATIONAL SANITARY RELATIONS); (B) HE OBJECTS TO THE 3RD SENTENCE OF PARA 3, "IN NEITHER CASE, HOWEVER, ARE THESE TWO UNITS TO IMPEDE OR PREVENT A DIRECT SCIENTIST TO SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH OR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION." LEON INSISTS THAT THE GOA MUST BE KEPT INFORMED, PARTICULARLY IN RESEARCH, OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY OFFICIAL USG ORGANIZATIONS AND SCIENTISTS WITH ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS, IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, AVOID WASTE OF FUNDS, AND KEEP INFORMED. LEON CHARACTERIZED THIS LAST POINT AS HIS ONLY "IN DEPTH" DISAGREEMENT WITH THE DHEW DRAFT. HE INDICATED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE RESOLVED BY ADDING A PROVISO TO THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION, TO CALL FOR NOTIFICATION (NOT PRIOR APPROVAL) OF THE GOA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REACTIONS OF DEPT AND DHEW TO LEON'S COMMENTS. EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND ATTEMPT TO IRON OUT REMAINING OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MOSW.

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